

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/FR2004/050025	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.01.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 23.01.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C08J5/22, C08L101/12, H01M8/10		
Applicant COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE et al		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>8</u> sheets, as follows: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050025

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-45 **published version** _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-30 received by this Authority on 25/03/05/letter submitted on 25/03/05
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/5-5/5 **published version** _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☒ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 1 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050025

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims

YES

Claims 1-30

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims

YES

Claims 1-30

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims

1-30

YES

Claims

NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

It should be noted that the wording of claim 1 of the application is open (see "including"), i.e. the scope of the claimed subject matter is not restricted to the features disclosed in the claim alone. In other words, the claimed subject matter does not exclude an organic porous phase or other single or hybrid phases.

Additionally, there is no clear difference between a component that is essentially not present and the same component that is partially present. Moreover, a feature qualified as non-essential may be interpreted as being merely optional. It should also be noted that the application does not provide a precise definition of the feature "mesoporous" (see page 5, lines 11 to 15).

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO 02/05370 A (BAUER BERND; FUMA TECH GMBH (DE); JONES DEBORAH (FR); ROZIERE JACQ) 17 January 2002 (2002-01-17)

D2: WO 92/06775 A (COMMISSARIAT ENERGIE ATOMIQUE) 30 April 1992 (1992-04-30)

1. The subject matter of claims 1 to 30 of the application does not appear to be novel (PCT

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Article 33(2)) over the organic/inorganic hybrid materials, optionally in membrane form, the use thereof in fuel cells and the methods for preparing same disclosed in documents D1 and D2.

D1 describes porous membranes wherein a polymer matrix and a silica-based porous phase interpenetrate (or are interleaved - see for example page 3, lines 1 to 3, page 7, lines 15 to 22, page 23, lines 11 to 22 and figure 26).

D2 describes bilayer porous membranes comprising an organic substrate phase and an inorganic mesoporous phase (see claims and examples). D2 clearly indicates that the pores are open (see for examples page 6, lines 9 to 12). It should also be noted that a layer or film is normally considered to be a structured material.

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: **Box I**

The amendment added with the letter of 25 March 2005 results in the application being extended beyond the content of the application as filed. Consequently, it contravenes the provisions of PCT Article 34(2)(b). The amendment concerned is as follows:

The insertion into claim 1 of the application of the feature "said organic phase does not take part in the creation of the structured mesoporous network of the inorganic phase", i.e. to take part in the creation of the structure of the mesoporous network. The organic phase may be considered to take part in creating the structure of the mesoporous network but not in creating the pores thereof. The passage cited as the basis for this amendment (pages 14, lines 8 to 10 of the application as published) discloses that "this polymer essentially must not act as a texturing agent capable of creating mesoporosity." In other words, it is not a pore-forming material.